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Europe

Foreign Red Cross Organizations

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World-Wide,
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Red Cross Societies Influenced by Communism

1. The ARC has had no contact with the Albanian RC society since ARC's Albania representative was withdrawn in protest against Albanian misappropriation of American relief supplies. Neither has it had contact with the Communist-controlled and self-sufficient Bulgarian society.

Red Cross Societies Free of Communist Influence

2. Finland's RC society is independent of Communist influence. It has the same president as before the war.
3. The Polish RC society operates free of Communist control, although the men leading the Polish society are Communists. At the local level there are RC workers of long-standing, working as they always have worked.
4. The Yugoslavian RC operates independent of Belgrade. It is self-sufficient and does a good job.
5. The Czechoslovakian and Rumanian RC societies also operate free of Communist control.

Means of Support

6. Although anxious to operate independent of their respective government funds, all RC societies receive government financial aid. The Polish society receives many private donations. The Rumanian and Yugoslavian societies also ask for public contributions. International RC has no fund available to support national RC societies.

Methods of Organization

7. The USSR Red Crescent Society uses more volunteers than do other societies

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Foreign RC Delegates to US

8. RC societies abroad are anxious for the opportunity of studying the ARC plan of operation. A member of the French RC, for example, recently completed a study in the US. The president of the Finish RC is going to the US in Sep. Other foreign RC members are also expected.
9. Russian sent a RC delegate to study ARC methods during the war. When she asked permission to send a second delegate to the US, the State Department consulted ARC. The latter requested written explanation for the need of a second Russian delegate, and immediately dropped the affair.

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REVIEW OF AMERICAN RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES INSULAR AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

MARCH 1947

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FOREIGN VISITORS NUMEROUS

During the last quarter of 1946, 23 men and women from 15 different foreign countries visited American Red Cross national headquarters in Washington for information, instruction, or informal study.

The International Activities department made nearly a hundred appointments with key persons at national, area, and chapter levels for these visitors from overseas. Their visits varied in length from 1 day to 2 weeks.

PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN VENEZUELA

The first Pan-American Red Cross Conference since 1940 was held at Caracas, Venezuela, Feb. 7-15. Delegates from 21 American countries met to discuss postwar programs, fund raising, public relations, chapter organization, and Junior Red Cross.

American representatives attending the conference were: Mrs. Paul E. Peabody, Ruth Freeman, James T. Nicholson, Dr. Edward A. Richards, Maurice Reddy, Col. Antonio R. Silva, and Philip E. Ryan.

They presented papers on nursing, disaster preparedness, and Junior Red Cross. In addition, at the request of the League of Red Cross Societies the American Red Cross prepared exhibits demonstrating the work of Junior Red Cross and Disaster Service for use at the meeting. Following the conference, these exhibits will be shown throughout the Pan-American countries.

A complete review of the activities of the conference will be presented in the next issue.

AMERICAN RED CROSS RELIEF FOR HUNGARY

Supplies valued at approximately \$1,750,000 will be made available to Hungary under a comprehensive Red Cross relief program recently given administrative approval. Clothing and medical supplies will constitute the bulk of the relief materials. At the same time, special assistance will be given to the Hungarian Red Cross to aid in the reconstruction of its services. Two American Red Cross representatives already in Europe will administer the new program, but all supplies will be distributed through the Hungarian Red Cross. The program is expected to get under way by the end of March.

The decision to send aid to Hungary was made on the recommendation of James B. Foley, director of International Activities in the Mediterranean area. Mr. Foley has recently completed a survey of conditions in Hungary made at the request of the Hungarian Red Cross and the UNRRA mission to Hungary.

Mr. Foley emphasized that the aid program outlined would meet a considerable part of the need existing in Hungary and be of inestimable value in revitalizing and strengthening the Hungarian Red Cross.

Of the total relief supplies to be made available, approximately \$1,500,000 worth are already in Red Cross warehouses or chapter production workrooms. New expenditures of about \$250,000 will be necessary, therefore, to complete the program. It is estimated that administrative expenses for staff salaries, maintenance, transportation, and so forth, will come to \$22,500. The relief phase of the program will be completed by the end of October of this year according to the schedule of operations set up at national headquarters.

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THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

Editor

Eugene N. S. Girard

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is my strong belief that the international Red Cross ideal can be a vital force for peace and mutual understanding throughout the world. Through the International Red Cross Committee, the League of Red Cross Societies, and the 61 national Red Cross societies now in existence, a large part of the world's population is already working harmoniously for the attainment of humanitarian and benevolent aims. It is not too much to hope, I believe, that the continuation and extension of this Red Cross effort can and will lead to even greater cooperation in the future and be a primary factor in man's efforts to reach the goal of universal peace, understanding, and tolerance for which he is striving.

By its history of service at home and abroad the American Red Cross has achieved a place of eminence in the world-wide Red Cross movement. As so many of the nations look to the United States for leadership and assistance, so do the national Red Cross societies of many countries look to the American Red Cross for guidance and a helping hand. To extend the aid they request, to take advantage of the byproducts of the foreign relief program, and to help these societies help themselves, the American Red Cross is engaged in a program of assistance to sister societies. It is an essential to that program that our staff, volunteer and paid, at national headquarters, in the area offices, and in the chapters have more information about the world-wide Red Cross. This publication is a part of that effort. It is designed to acquaint you more thoroughly with the American Red Cross International Activities program and with developments in the whole Red Cross world.

I welcome, therefore, this opportunity of commenting on this first issue of World Wide. As we all become more familiar with what all the Red Cross societies are doing, we will, I believe, recognize more clearly the significance of their role in the development of a new world.

Basil O'Brien
Chairman

UNITED NATIONS ADOPTS
RED CROSS RESOLUTION

On November 19, 1946, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted unanimously the following resolution:

"The General Assembly draws the attention of the Members of the United Nations to the fact that the following purposes are of special concern, namely:

(a) that the said Members should encourage and promote the establishment and cooperation of duly authorized voluntary National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

(b) that at all times the independent voluntary nature of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies be respected in all circumstances, provided they are recognized by their governments and carry on their work according to the principles of the Geneva and Hague Conventions and in the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;

(c) that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that in all circumstances contact be maintained between the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of all countries, so as to enable them to carry out their humanitarian task."

This resolution was sponsored by the Belgian Delegation to the United Nations at the request of the Belgian Red Cross. It is similar to one adopted during the XIX Meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at Oxford, England, in July 1946, and later sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations for consideration.

WORLD RED CROSS MEMBERSHIP 87½ MILLION

Total membership in Red Cross societies throughout the world is 87½ million according to the latest estimate released by the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies. Of this number, 56 million represent adult members and 31½ million junior members. American Red Cross membership in 1946 was 22 million adults, 19½ million juniors.

AUSTRIAN RED CROSS COMPLETES REORGANIZATION

National reorganization of the Austrian Red Cross was accomplished on July 21, 1946, with the unanimous election of national officers and adoption of new constitutions at a formal meeting of delegates from the nine provincial units that make up the Austrian society. Elected to office were Dr. Karl Seitz, President; Dr. Bruenner, Chairman of the Executive Committee; and Rudolf Mitloehner, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Immediately following the German Anschluss in 1938 the Austrian Red Cross was dissolved and its establishments and functions taken over by the German Red Cross whose leadership was appointed by the German government. Austria's liberation in April 1945 brought with it the end of German Red Cross activities in Austria and, effective May 8, 1945, the Austrian Provisional Government cancelled and voided German Red Cross regulations. Shortly after this date several of the provincial units resumed their preoccupation activities under Austrian leadership. National reorganization of the society was achieved with the advice and assistance of representatives of the American, British, and French Red Cross societies and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Dr. Seitz, the newly elected President, was the mayor of Vienna at the time of the German occupation. Persecuted by the Nazis, he is loved and respected throughout Austria. Dr. Bruenner and Herr Mitloehner are veteran Red Cross officials of many years' experience with the Austrian society. Together they are expected to provide excellent leadership for the Austrian Red Cross in its traditional program of public health and welfare and in the extension of that program to new fields of service.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 61 SOCIETIES

Membership in the League of Red Cross Societies currently numbers 61 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. Four more are waiting formal recognition and admission to membership.

ARC TO PROVIDE CORN MEAL FOR RUMANIAN FAMINE RELIEF

The American Red Cross has arranged for the immediate purchase and transportation of 1,000,000 pounds of corn meal to help alleviate a famine in the province of Moldavia, Rumania. More than 3,000,000 persons live in the famine-stricken area. The action was recommended by Fred Sigerist, American Red Cross International Activities representative, following a special field trip into the effected area.

The meal will be shipped to Constanta, on the Black Sea, and turned over to the Rumanian Red Cross for distribution in the famine region. Mr. Sigerist will observe the distribution for the American Red Cross. The Rumanian Society is already operating a limited number of feeding stations in Moldavia and is also sponsoring a program for the removal of children from the affected area to foster homes in provinces where food is more plentiful.

FIRST USE OF RED CROSS EMBLEM

The first use of the Red Cross emblem on the field of battle occurred in 1864 in the war between Prussia and Denmark. The Swiss physician, Dr. L.P. Amedee Appia, made up an arm band bearing the symbol and wore it to gain audiences with military and civilian authorities. The original arm band is still in the possession of the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva.

HUNGARIAN PROGRAM APPROVED

(continued from page 1)

Specific relief supplies to be distributed include the following: 60,000 pairs of children's and women's shoes; 500,000 chapter-produced garments; 15,000 demi-layettes; 30 trucks and ambulances; equipment for the Hungarian Red Cross nurses' training school; \$150,000 worth of medical and hospital supplies; Junior Red Cross medical kits and educational gift boxes; and miscellaneous items such as blankets, sheets, typewriters, mimeograph machines, and paper. Only previous American Red Cross aid to Hungary was a gift of 12,000,000 surplus surgical dressings last fall.

THE RED CROSS WORLD



In the Austrian Red Cross training school for nurses an instructor teaches one phase of the 2-year course that will prepare this student for service with the Austrian Red Cross (Austrian Red Cross story of page 3).

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Six-year old Werfel, of the Am Himmel orphanage in Vienna, receives the first pair of new shoes he has ever had. They were part of a large amount of clothing and shoes distributed through the American Red Cross in Austria last fall. The picture was taken by Red Cross photographer Gerry Waller and has been widely published in the United States press.



These two Rumanian children in famine-stricken Moldavia have been brought by their parents to a center in Iassy prior to their removal to foster homes in other districts where they will be fed and cared for during the winter.



Soon afterward - bathed, deloused, and dressed in American Red Cross pyjamas - they have joined other children in group singing. The Rumanian Red Cross does most of the work in this child removal project (Rumanian famine story on page 3).



One section of the American Red Cross exhibit for the Pan-American Red Cross Conference at Caracas, Venezuela (Story on page 1).

KING HAKON OF NORWAY
THANKS AMERICAN RED CROSS

In a special pamphlet addressed to the American Red Cross, the joint Committee of Nasjonalhjelpen of Norway has expressed gratitude for the relief supplies distributed in that country. The pamphlet is prefaced by a letter of thanks from King Hakon VII of Norway, which reads as follows:

"When the activities of the American Red Cross now are coming to a close I should like to express my deepest thanks to the numerous American men and women, many of them of Norwegian ancestry, who have made its work possible through their gifts and unselfish efforts. This assistance in many forms, rendered in a spirit of comradeship in arms, has been greatly appreciated by the Norwegian people and the memory of the work of the American Red Cross will always remain a strong bond for friendship between the peoples of Norway and the United States of America.

Hakon VII"

Relief supplies distributed in Norway by and through the American Red Cross were valued at \$2,200,000.

INSULAR AND FOREIGN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Insular and Foreign Operations was held in Washington on December 16, 1946. This group was organized to offer suggestions and advice on the general program of Insular and Foreign Operations, and to assist, particularly, in pointing out and implementing feasible lines of chapter participation in the international field.

The committee is composed of representatives of chapters, areas, and related services at national headquarters, and is headed by Mrs. William K. Laughlin, vice chairman, Volunteer Special Services, New York City Chapter.

Members felt that a first step in future plans for international activities should be a public information program about the world-wide Red Cross.

BELGIAN RED CROSS DEVELOPS
BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

As a major part of its postwar program, the Belgian Red Cross has assumed responsibility for the establishment of a national blood donor program covering both collections and distribution. As early as 1934 the Belgian Society was operating a blood bank project dealing in whole blood for use in public medical institutions. This program continued up to and through the war and at the end of hostilities, 12 main collecting stations and several branches were in operation.

Following war-induced expansion in the use of whole blood and blood derivatives, increased need for these products developed in Belgium. Because its program was the only one in Belgium operating on a national scale, the Belgian Red Cross was felt to be the logical agency to meet the new need; working in conjunction with military and government officials, the Belgian Red Cross has evolved a projected plan calling for the expansion and reequipment of its existing stations and the establishment of a national processing laboratory to be run by the government. When this plan is in full operation it will triple the present collection of 30,000 units a year.

As a part of its program of aid to sister Red Cross societies, the American Red Cross has agreed to assist the Belgian Red Cross in this project by furnishing equipment that cannot be obtained locally for the blood collecting centers. Technical advice and general counsel on the program were given by American Red Cross experts to a representative of the Belgian Red Cross who came to the United States for information.

AMERICAN AID ABROAD

In carrying out the desire of the people of the United States to aid civilians of war-devastated countries, the American Red Cross made available from September 1, 1939, through June 30, 1946, relief supplies worth more than \$152,000,000. These supplies were sent to 46 war-affected countries where they benefited approximately 75½ million persons.

VEENSTRA OF NETHERLANDS
PROMINENT STUDY VISITOR

PERSONAL NOTES

As a part of the IA informational program, members of the headquarters staff recently visited all areas to discuss and explain the peacetime activities of the department. Philip E. Ryan, director, visited North Atlantic and Eastern Areas; G. R. More, deputy director, visited Southeastern Area; and Melvin A. Glasser, assistant director, visited Midwestern and Pacific Areas. All reported a keen interest in the IA program.

William H. Giblin, director of International Activities in the ETO, has returned to his Paris headquarters after spending the Christmas holiday season in the United States. Mr. Giblin has been active in overseas operations for the American Red Cross since 1940 when he accepted his first foreign assignment.

Gertrude Calhoun, of the national headquarters IA staff, has arrived in Europe for a special assignment in the Scandinavian countries. Her work in Washington is being taken over by Nancy Means, of the Paris office. This is the first of a series of exchanges of headquarters and field staff designed to acquaint each at firsthand with the activities of the other.

Margaret Lewis, veteran and well-known Red Cross worker, has begun her new duties as assistant director in charge of Headquarters Operations, International Activities department. Mrs. Lewis brings to her new position a vast fund of chapter and area experience and is a welcome addition to the Washington staff. She replaces Edward R. Stearn who has gone to Eastern Area Chapter Service.

Another new addition to the headquarters staff is Stephan Whalen, until recently a special advisor to the Philippine Red Cross. Mrs. Whalen will handle the International Activities study-visit program, planning discussion and study periods with key chapter, area, and national personnel for foreign visitors interested in American Red Cross services and methods of operation.



W. Veenstra, Director of Foreign Relations, Netherlands Red Cross.

Prominent among recent study visitors from abroad at American Red Cross national headquarters was W. Veenstra, Director of Foreign Relations of the Netherlands Red Cross, who spent 2 weeks studying administration and service programs in preparation for his part in the rehabilitation of the Dutch society.

Forced underground by the Nazi occupation, the Netherlands Red Cross is in the process of rebuilding its organization and Mr. Veenstra was primarily interested in American Red Cross services that might be adapted to use in his country and those that would offer assistance in the society's rebirth. He spent the major part of his time with representatives of Public Relations, Fund Raising, Volunteer Special Services, and Home Service; but also reviewed the activities of community, disaster, and hospital services and Junior Red Cross.

Mr. Veenstra expressed his amazement at the scope of American Red Cross activities and particularly the large-scale employment of volunteer assistance. He also took occasion formally to thank the American Red Cross for its aid to the Netherlands in both relief supplies and advisory assistance.



GREECE

The hall was crowded to the rafters with volunteer nurses, old and young, with professional nurses whose economic return is so small that they might also be called volunteers, and with the doctors and the professional and businessmen who had for 6 long years devoted themselves unselfishly to the humanitarian principles represented by Red Cross. No one attending this rather inspiring and enthusiastic assemblage can say that the Red Cross spirit is withering in Greece - it is merely tired. If and when there is restored to these people some semblance of unified government, and of economic stability, and of national security, the Supervisor is convinced that the Greek Red Cross, through the influences and examples of foreign Red Cross societies that have been working in its midst for so many years, will blossom forth into a full-fledged, mature, and highly respected member of our world-wide confraternity.

*From Field Report of
O. C. Crawford,
Supervisor, Greek
Operation*

YUGOSLAVIA

Amcross supplies are strengthening YUCROSS in its work, particularly in the care of children. Through the Ministry of Social Welfare, many of our supplies are

turned over to the children's day nurseries, children's hospitals, and children's homes. Since the relief programs of most of the agencies operating in Yugoslavia are geared to relief for adults, YUCROSS, with AMCROSS supplies and volunteers from the Red Cross societies of each of the republics, is fulfilling one of the basic tasks outlined by the Central Committee of YUCROSS.

*From Field Report
of J. B. Hoptner,
Special Representative,
Yugoslav
Operation*

THERE, TOO, GO I!

Whenever war with its black woes
Or flood, or fire or famine goes
There, too, go I!

Wherever strength and skill can bring
Surcease to human suffering
There, too, am I!

I go wherever men may dare,
I go wherever woman's care
And love can live ...

If earth in any quarter quakes
Or pestilence its ravage makes
My help I give.

The cross which on my arm I wear,
The flag which o'er my breast I bear
Are but the sign:

I am the ambassador for you
I do what you would surely do
If you were there!

*(By courtesy of the Ontario Division
of the Canadian Red Cross Society.)*

RUMANIA

What is new to report is considerable progress with regard to revitalization of the various services (Rumanian Red Cross) through the efforts of Dr. Teoduro (Dr. Teoduro is the Rumanian medical adviser to ARC Rumanian operation) who has introduced teams of students and faculty people from the University to revamp the somewhat rusty systems of working. In about 2 months results ought to become apparent.

Meetings have taken place with the Ministry of Education with regard to the Junior Red Cross program. With the imminent arrival of supplies for Junior Red Cross, new life in this field is anticipated. Generally speaking, it may be added that Rucross on the whole is rising to the new situation of having to work harder and more systematically in order to cope with the tasks facing the organization now. This is definitely encouraging.

*From Field Report of Fred G. Sigerist,
Supervisor, Rumanian Operation*

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